



**AUSTIN MUSIC COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, December 5, 2011, 6:00 P.M.**  
Austin City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701  
Boards and Commissions Room 1101

Commissioners in attendance: Brad Spies, Rich Garza, Eve McArthur, Heather Wagner Reed

Staff in attendance: Don Pitts, Ashley Buchanan, Charlotte Huskey

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission meeting was unanimously called to order at 6:22 p.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting of November 7, 2011 were approved on Spies' motion, McArthur's second, and a unanimous vote.

**C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

1. **Tamara Hoover**, Cheer Up Charlie's – spoke about a ticket Cheer Up Charlie's received for having stage equipment that could reach above 85 decibel levels. This is the first ticket the venue has received. Hoover stated the venue invested in a effective stage barrier for noise abatement. She suggested East 6<sup>th</sup> Street to be included in part of Austin's entertainment district. She added that police said their venue was below their decibel levels and music bands were inside the venue.
2. **Will Roads**, Club DeVille – spoke about a ticket Club DeVille received for playing outdoor music. Roads stated that police had written them a ticket for breaking the time limit, having two speakers outside, and for having received loud noise complaints prior to that night. He said police were not directly responding to a loud music complaint and questioned why they received a ticket if their venue has been playing music for fourteen years.
3. **KaiZen, Jonathan Parker**, 6<sup>th</sup> Street Records/The Cleaners/Fresh Hustle Entertainment – He introduced himself as a musician new to Austin and promoted his record label, production group and recently completed record. He played a Youtube video involving a hip-hop health initiative. Parker asked how to get more involved with the Music Commission and club scene in Austin.

4. **Clay Shorkey**, Texas Music Museum – spoke about the history of Texas Music Museum and invited community to visit their new exhibit in January. The new exhibit focuses on world histories on Black Musicians from East Austin and celebrates East Austin as a historic district. He added that the museum now has a historical music collection on the Texas Music Museum website.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Red River Live Music Heritage District** – Spies described the goal of the Red River Live Music Heritage District and stated that the Music Commission supported protecting this area of Austin. Spies questioned how to best protect the area and how to designate it as a district. Spies welcomed suggestions from community representatives of Red River venues. John Wickham spoke of his concern about Waller Creek, and discussed how music venues on Red River have improved the district over the past ten years. He stated that SXSW’s concern is that all venues concentrate in Red River, and discussed the importance of small music venues serving as an incubator for support for smaller, starting bands. Spies asked what specific criteria would help to make the district valued and protected. Wickham proposed adding parking spaces for the Red River venues because of the need of free parking space. James Moody of Mohawk and Transmission Entertainment spoke of how Mohawk received a ticket for ambient outdoor music without prior complaint, and questioned why Mohawk received a ticket when the venue has been in existence for years. He gave his support for the District because it would provide diverse live music experiences in a mixed-use area. He suggested the District’s boundaries to include Red River Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and to possibly add East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, because of the movement between these live music venues on any given night. Spies questioned future outlook for Red River Live Music Heritage District and how people might value things differently. Moody stated the importance of finding a balance between the vintage and new and of keeping local businesses because local vendors contribute greatly to culture of Austin. Spies questioned what incentives would help to benefit Red River venues. Moody proposed mix-use areas to keep Austin unique. Stated that culture is the reason that people come to Austin, and that extra music hours would help to make business more sustainable; suggested sound attenuation and tax deductions from the City to assist Red River live music venues. Spies reviewed questions sent by Bill Brice of the Downtown Austin Alliance stated importance of possibly creating metrics. McArthur inquired about the Downtown Austin Alliance’s thoughts about the Red River Live Music Heritage District. Garza questioned the outlines for live music times. Pitts stated the entertainment live music times in the City of Austin. Spies recognized the history of Red River and questioned what criteria are needed to create the District. Randall Stockton of White Swan questioned why and how City cares about keeping the musical culture alive in Austin. He inquired about how Waller Creek will be compatible with future plans. He suggested

repealing pay of parking downtown and stated it will help Red River. McArthur said she understands and that the Commission is open to citizen suggestions. Stockton stated he is committed to Austin and suggested to lock taxes on the properties on Red River to help take the burden off Red River venues. Spies asked if Red River Live Music Heritage District would help his venue. Stockton said Red River Live Music Heritage District would be nothing more than a title. Spies suggested discussing geographic boundaries around Waller Creek. McArthur suggested an open discussion between cultural community members. Wagner Reed stated reminding developers of importance of musical culture in Austin. Pitts called attention to Downtown Business Plan. Spies read Downtown Business Plan. Spies reviewed the meeting's suggestions from citizens. Pitts suggested working on parking spaces. Tyson of Red 7 suggested receiving warnings before receiving a ticket and added that an historical district might help designate music area. Garza proposed to bring forth Red River Live Music Heritage District to council and asked to define the area and importance of Red River Live Music Heritage District and to create facts and boundaries for council about ideas of Red River and benefits for music venues. Spies suggested having blocks 600-1000 for geographic boundaries. Stockton suggested just east of Red River Street for boundary. Spies suggested creating criteria for district, 600-1000 blocks of Red River, and to include venues and appropriate adjacent areas near Red River. Garza suggested to first state the importance of creating the District. Pitts suggested revising AU-4.4 section of Downtown Business Plan. McArthur suggested adding "preservation" wording to help promote area of Austin and that it might help for area improvement. Spies continued revising resolution to recommend creation of Red River Live Music Heritage District. Wagner Reed asked if there is any historical data about Red River and asks everyone to think about its importance. McArthur stated that history should be compiled to help educate people about Red River. Spies motioned for close, Wagner Reed seconded the motion, on a unanimous vote.

2. **Downtown Building Standards** – McArthur stated that Council Member Morrison proposed a similar proposition for the Downtown Building Standards. Spies read the Music Commission's recommendation to incorporate sound mitigation in the design of Downtown Buildings. Garza suggested that Music Commission should be more supportive when addressing building standards. John Reeny compared Austin to New Orleans regarding sound ordinances. He suggested writing a sound ordinance to help keep culture alive in place of the current sound ordinance. Ian Smith suggested club relocation. Garza suggested rewording and placing density issue in downtown building standards and planning for downtown sound ordinance. McArthur motioned, Garza seconded the motion, on a unanimous vote.

**E. MEMBER UPDATES**

**F. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

Pitts addressed Music in the Parks series hosted by the City's Music Division and Parks Department.

**G. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on Spies' motion, Garza's second, on a unanimous vote.